

THE S PLUGS FROM PLUGUP.COM

A number of years back we made the investment to have created 'custom ear plugs' by Marilyn Navia, licensed audiologist, from PlugUp.com. In addition to being ungodly quiet and banishing much of the hearing destructive noise that comes with motorcycle riding, they also had small speakers to allow for more pleasant sounds, music and point-to-point directions.

It is hard to wear other and lesser ear protection when you have experienced earplugs this good. Add in the speaker drivers and you have crisp and clear spoken Garmin directions, music or cell phone if wanted. Still, as well made as these are, I have found numerous ways of destroying, breaking and rendering them inoperable over the last decade.

Each time damaged plugs get packed up and sent to Marilyn who, dreading my phone calls, repairs and returns them in perfect condition regardless.

I now have two sets of these custom earplugs – one for the BMW and one for my KLR.

Last summer I once again tugged the wire loose when dismounting the GS (yes, I am clumsy) and, looking to still be able to hear my Garmin's voice prompts and that afternoon's Mets game on XM radio, I went to a local sports shop looking for suitable replacements.

Nothing I found came close.

After this tour was over and we were back at home I took a look at PlugUp.com's website looking for suitable back up.

We had once done a review on their 'S-Plugs' and I thought that a set of these would make good Plan B for the next time I spoil my custom set.

Over the years Marilyn has made improvements to the S-Plug and the newest are available with dual speaker drivers in each ear bud, each containing a woofer and tweeter. If you want a truly awesome sound then this is the way to go, even at the higher price over the single driven earbuds.

I placed my order that day.

A few weeks later I received my new S-Plugs that came in a protective zippered carrying case with a clip for a lanyard or attachment sewn on.

The S-Plug Earbuds are the smallest of their kind on the market and the only truly flexible ones as well.

Your ear canal has a basic 'S' shape to it and these buds conform nicely to most ears, even if they are not custom made for the individual.

This flexibility allows for the speakers to be placed deep in the ear for increased bass response and better outside noise cancelling.

Circumstances had me off the bike for a part of this year and with the need to test my new S-Plugs we booked a cabin on the Norwegian cruise line's Breakaway and sailed out into the Atlantic Ocean on a cold and very windy January weekend.

We would tough this out as nothing is too good for you kids when we need to test products.

When the gale was at its peak I bundled up, put in the S-Plug Earbuds and took a seat outside the port side of the Breakaway.

With gusts well over 40 miles per hour and ten foot swells, I felt I had approximately the same din of wind noise I would get on the bike at speed.

Just having the S-Plugs inserted cut the noise down considerably. Turning on a small iPod I dialed up 'In the Country' from Chicago's landmark 'Live at Carnegie Hall' collection. For 10 minutes and 38 seconds, including the quiet introduction by WNEW's Scott Muni, the earbuds transported me back to 57th street in Manhattan and April of 1971. The sound was crisp, clear and loud (my doing) with each instrument and even comments from the audience being heard by themselves and not getting lost in a stew of sound.

Although not as good as professional headsets or their own custom earplugs the S-Plugs did an excellent job



reproducing music or Garmin voice prompts.

When the song ended I turned off the iPod and in the background I could here the wind softly blasting along the side of the ship.

Removing the earbuds the true volume of the ocean wind gust, on the moving ship, came clear, that and the fact that the S-Plugs do an awesome job in both quieting outside noise and delivering clear music and voice commands at speed.

Simply stated PlugUp.com's S-Plugs are the best earbuds you can buy without having custom plugs of your own created.

The S-Plugs also fit in tighter and more snugly than anything else on the market, allowing for a more comfortable experience when you put your helmet on. Gone was the tightness and pinching found with more commonly found and store bought earbuds. It is our experience that if your helmet is not completely comfortable or you have pain and pinching around the ears and throat there is really no point in using this sort of product.

The S-Plugs are free of that issue.

The S-Plugs are available in 22", 3.5' and 4.5' wire lengths and the single-driver S-Plug sells for \$139.95 and the dual driver S-Plugs run \$235. The difference in both price and performance is very noticeable and dramatic.

Either way you go we know you will not be disappointed.

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Or find Marilyn Navia at various rallies around the country

